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BAT MAN

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OH--NO! ROBIN, WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?

THE NEW DC THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

HANNIGAN & JANSON

BAT MAN
Let me tell you a tale of old Gotham-town
'Pon whose spires lies a cast of deep cold
So chill and rigid to eternally drown
All who dared the ice of its hold.
So if still you must visit fair Gotham-town
Hurry, before it cracks, and falls down
Ending this, my tale, told with long frown...
G-1324
The Glacier Under Gotham!
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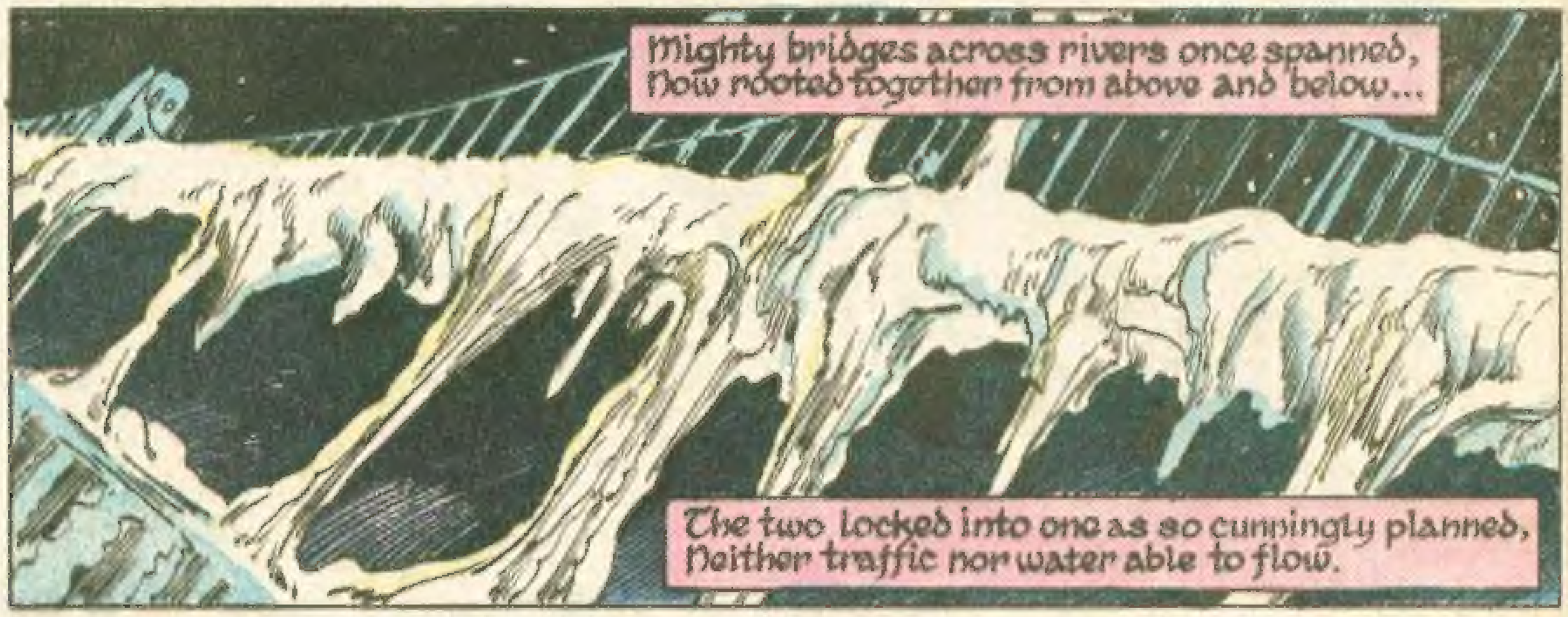
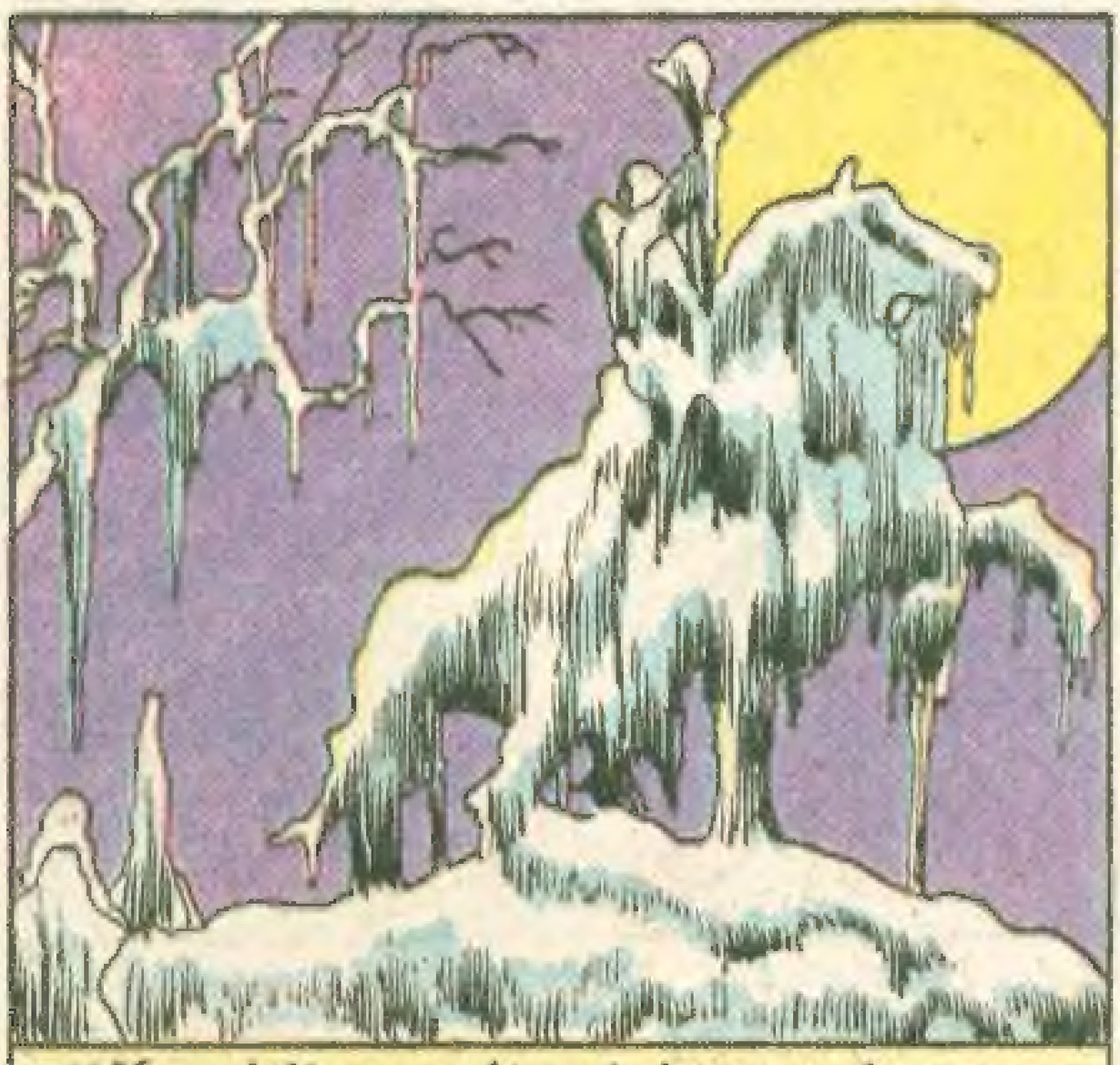
No more do streets tremble under
once-quick weight
Of cars, trucks, and buses now fast in
the ice...

As each family huddles in the shadow of
Fate
Their tears, melted then frozen, wept twice.



Mighty bridges across rivers once spanned,
Now rooted together from above and below...

The two locked into one as so cunningly planned,
Neither traffic nor water able to flow.



Stiffer still grow the statues, and more
weighted down
Trapped at the heart of this frigid pall...

As I tell you this tale of sad Gotham-town
Where the white crown of cold reins o'er all.

YES! THIS IS PRECISELY AS IT WILL BE--

--EXACTLY AS I'VE DREAMED AND DESCRIBED IT!

YOUR DRAWINGS AND RHYMES ARE BRILLIANT, SAMMY!

ALL CREDIT TO MY IDOLS, BOSS-- EUGENE FIELD AND CHARLES ROBINSON.

BUT, WITH YOUR TALENT, WHY DID YOU EVER TURN TO CRIME?

WELL... NO ONE WANTED TO BUY MY STUFF.

BACK WHEN I WENT INTO CRIME, FANTASY WASN'T IN VOGUE.

MAYBE NOW I COULD GET WORK--DESIGNING SOME BLOCK-BUSTER MOVIE OR SOMETHING.

...BUT AT THIS POINT, I GUESS I'M JUST TOO SET IN MY WAYS.

WELL, THEY'LL CERTAINLY BUY OUR FANTASY NOW, SAMMY-- BECAUSE WE'LL TURN IT INTO A REALITY THEY'LL BE FORCED TO ACCEPT!

WE'LL GIVE THEM NO CHOICE!

WAIT A MINUTE, MR. FREEZE...

I DON'T DEAL IN FANTASY.

SO WHAT'S THE CRAZY IDEA? WHY THE WHOLE CITY?

IT'S THE BATMAN'S CITY.

EVERYTHING BAD THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME HAPPENED IN GOTHAM.

WHY NOT, LOU?

WHY NOT TAKE REVENGE BY WRESTING IT AWAY FROM HIM--BY CONQUERING IT IN ICE?

YEARS AGO, BEFORE I BECAME *MR. FREEZE*-- BACK WHEN I WAS STILL KNOWN AS *MR. ZERO*-- I WORKED *FEVERISHLY* TO PERFECT MY *ICE GUN*...

...AND SUCCEED I *DID*, GENTLEMEN, AS YOU *WELL* KNOW--

"--BUT NOT BEFORE I WAS ACCIDENTALLY SATURATED WITH AN *EXPERIMENTAL FREEZING SOLUTION*.

"AS A CONSEQUENCE, I SOON DISCOVERED THAT ANY CLIMATE ABOVE THE *FREEZING POINT* WAS *TOO HOT* FOR MY *SURVIVAL*."

AND SO, DOOMED TO LIVE IN ZERO-TEMPERATURE FOREVER, I DEVELOPED *MY REFRIGERATED SUIT*-- WHICH ENABLED ME TO GO ANYWHERE IN A *PORTABLE FREEZING ENVIRONMENT*...

...AND I BATTLED THE BATMAN *REPEATEDLY*, ALWAYS ON *HIS TURF*, AND ALWAYS *FAILING*...

...INCLUDING THE *LAST* TIME-- IN THE COMPANY OF THE BATMAN'S GREATEST *ARCH-FOES*-- WHEN WE *ALL* FAILED.*

CRAZY DUDE.

HIM AND THIS ICE-JIVE BE VERY, VERY *WHITE*... MAYBE *TOO* WHITE FOR *ME*.

*SEE *DETECTIVE* #526. --LEN

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

TOO MANY CHIEFS AND NO BRAVES --AND THAT'S WHY I'VE GATHERED YOU TOGETHER, TO FORM MY GANG.

YEAH--AND AS LONG AS THERE'S MONEY IN IT FOR ALL OF US, WE'RE WILLING TO FOLLOW YOU...

BUT THIS WILD SCHEME--! IT'S TOO BIG TO--

MY VISION--AND SAMMY'S DRAWINGS --ARE EXAGGERATED, YES... BUT I CAN MAKE GOTHAM COLD ENOUGH TO CRIPPLE IT!

HOW--?!

LIKE THIS, LOU!

OKAY--YOUR ICE GUN IS DYNAMITE!

NO ONE'S ARGUING THAT--IT CAN FREEZE A WHOLE POND WITH ONE SHOT-- BUT HOW'RE YOU GOING TO PLUNGE A WHOLE CITY INTO A NEW ICE AGE?

ONE STEP AT A TIME... FROM BELOW.

ONCE THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE BIPLANE WAS DEVELOPED AND REFINED, THE JUMBO JET WAS NOT FAR OFF.

SO TOO IT IS WITH MY ICE GUN...

CHEK

...AND WITH AN ICE GUN OF THIS SIZE-- A VERITABLE ICE CANNON-- WE CAN FREEZE AN ENTIRE BUILDING...

SHOULD THAT BUILDING PROVE TO BE, SAY, A BANK... WE WILL THEN POSSESS ENOUGH FUNDS TO BUILD AN EVEN LARGER ICE CANNON...

A BANK! NOW YOU'RE TALKIN', MR. FREEZE!

NO--I AM DREAMING.

YEAH--AND IF THAT'S AS FAR AS IT GOES, THE DREAM JUST MIGHT COME TRUE...

...BUT MR. FREEZE HERE AIN'T GONNA BE CONTENT TO STOP WITH MONEY.

HE'S GONNA KEEP FREEZING MORE AND MORE OF THE CITY UNTIL HE BRINGS THE NATIONAL GUARD DOWN ON US!

BEFORE HE'S DONE, WE'LL BE FIGHTING THE WHOLE UNITED STATES ARMY--NOT TO MENTION THE MARINES!

DON'T WORRY YOURSELF, LOU.

I'VE HARDLY GONE MAD WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, AND I AM FULLY AWARE THAT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WILL NOT STAND STILL FOR THE TOTAL FULFILLMENT OF MY DREAM...

INDEED, I AM NOT INTERESTED IN DEFEATING THE ARMY--JUST GOTHAM ...AND THE BATMAN.

WE WILL DO NOTHING MORE THAN CRIPPLE THE CITY WITH COLD, LOOT ITS CHOICEST SIGHTS, AND MOVE ON...TO WARMER CLIMES, IF YOU PREFER...

...YET FOR A SHORT AND VERY SWEET TIME, GOTHAM WILL BE MY PERSONAL DOMAIN OF ICE, JUST AS SAMMY HAS SO PROPHETICALLY DEPICTED.

AFTER ALL, IT WAS IN GOTHAM THAT I WAS FATED TO ENDURE THE REST OF MY LIFE IN COLD...

...AND WHY SHOULDN'T THE REST OF THE CITY SUFFER A TASTE OF THE SAME?

Said the man called MR. FREEZE, scheming a dream cold enough to please.

YOU GOT *MAGIC* IN THAT HAND OF YOURS, SAMMY--AND YOU'RE *ABUSING* IT.

AW, COME ON, LOU, I JUST LIKE TO *DRAW*, THAT'S ALL.

YEAH? *IS* THAT ALL?

YOU GIVE *VISION* TO THE WILD IDEAS OF A GUY LIKE *HIM* AND YOU BECOME THE *ARCHITECT OF MADNESS*.

YOU DRIVE HIM RIGHT OVER THE *EDGE* WITH STARS IN HIS EYES AND HE DRAGS THE REST OF US *ALONG WITH HIM*.

BET ON IT, SAMMY.

YOU *THINK* SO, LOU?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE *REST* OF YOU--

--BUT AS SOON AS WE CRASH THAT *BANK*, I'M *SPLITTING*.

The Hillcrest Suburban Bank, perched on a hill steeply sloping down,
Looks upon the glittering lights of slumbering Gotham-town.

BRRRRR-- IT'S *FREEZIN'* IN HERE.

YEAH--YOU'D THINK A *BANK* COULD AFFORD A LITTLE *HEAT* FOR US AT NIGHT

I CAN'T *UNDERSTAND* IT-- IT'S NOT THAT COLD *OUTSIDE*...

...BUT IT SEEMS TO JUST KEEP GETTIN' WORSE AND WORSE *IN HERE*...

AND THEN...

K-K-K-K-K

WHAT THE--?!

IT'S WORKING, GENTLEMEN!

THE FOUNDATIONS ARE STARTING TO CRACK UNDER THE HYPER-FRIGID STRESS!

K-K-K-K-K-K-K

THE WHOLE BUILDING'S MOVING-- TIPPING TO THE SIDE!

PUT THAT GUN AWAY! YOU GONNA SHOOT AN EARTHQUAKE?!

Like a child's blocks so easily shaken,
By subterranean cold the bank is hit...

Trembling within, the loot to be taken
Until the foundations, frozen, finally split.

Down the hill the upended cars begin to rumble
As in terrible wonder towns colossal leaf ...

Down his back, new beginning to rumble
Couldn't [illegible] long
left [illegible] retreat.

Crashing, the [illegible]

From the hole where bank once stood They rise like a frigid gust...

Then down the hill descend four hoods,

HEADED THE VAULT.

...AND TO BE A COUPLE IN HELL BEFORE THEY [illegible] OUT THIS ONE, GENTLEMEN.

WE'RE GOIN' BOGGS THIS TIME 'F I'M SLIPPED.

AFTER MY PENGUIN CAPER IN ANTARCTICA I JUST CAN'T [illegible] TO GET WARM!

AND HERE I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SUGGEST SOME NICE COLD *LEMONADE*...

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS JUST *HEATED UP*, BRUCE--AND A LOT HOTTER THAN THIS *BORING GAME.*

THAT'S THE *SMALLER, MOBILE* BAT-SIGNAL, JASON --COMING FROM THE HILLS TO THE *WEST.*

WELL, I [illegible] YOU'RE READY TO PLAY *BATMAN* 'TIL [illegible] COME FOR-

"--POSH."

JUST WHAT YOU NEED AFTER ANTARCTICA, BATMAN--MORE *ICE*...

...A SOLID SHEET OF IT OVER THE *FOUNDATION HOLE.*

YES--AND VERY, VERY *COLD* ICE.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BANK WAS NOT FAULTY IN ANY WAY WE CAN DETERMINE--SO THE ONLY THING I CAN FIGURE IS SOME SORT OF *STRANGE GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENON*...

OR SOME SORT OF *CRIMINAL* PHENOMENON, GORDON.

YES...I'VE THOUGHT OF MR. FREEZE, TOO--BUT DON'T YOU THINK SOMETHING OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS A TRIFLE OVER HIS *HEAD*, BATMAN?

CROOKS ARE GREEDY

THEY GET AMBITIOUS.

WELL SOMEBODY GOT GREEDY *AND* AMBITIOUS

D

--UNLESS THE MONEY FELL DOWN THAT *HOLE* BEFORE IT *FROZE OVER*, WHICH I *DOUBT*.

THE VAULT'S CLEAN AS A WHISTLE--

--BUT SOMEONE *COULD* HAVE HAPPENED BY AND *HELPED HIMSELF.*

YOU DON'T BUY THAT ANY MORE THAN I DO, JIM.

NO, I DON'T

ANYWAY, I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO TAKE A LOOK FOR *YOURSELF*

HOSPITAL SAYS THE TWO GUARDS ARE BADLY HURT, BUT THEY'LL *LIVE*. MAYBE THEY CAN TELL US SOMETHING WHEN THEY *COME TO*.

AND MAYBE THE CRIME SCENE HAS *VOICE ENOUGH.*

"CRIME SCENE," EH, AND NOT *DISASTER SCENE*? SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY *MADE UP YOUR MIND*

JULIA--YOU'RE STILL WORKING, TOO?

--AND THERE IS A LOT TO FILE!

WELL, ONE OF OUR SUBURBAN STRINGERS JUST CALLED IN A *DOOZY.*

BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ALREADY THERE - I'M GOING TO SEE IF I CAN GET ANY *PHOTOS.*

IT SEEMS A LOT *HAPPENS* IN GOTHAM, VICKI -

THEN, SINCE I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU THAT THE POSITION OF *FILE CLERK* IS NOT *SUITABLE* FOR ME--

--IT SHALL COME ALONG, AND SO SO.

MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE PEOPLE OF *ACTION*-- AND THEY PUT IT IN MY *BLOOD.*

I THOUGHT YOUR FATHER WAS *ALFRED*-- BRUCE WAYNE'S *BUTLER.*

HE IS

AND NOW I'D CRAVE THE ACTION OF A *REPORTER'S* LIFE!

HE'S TOO *AREOCENT* FOR MY TASTES--AND BESIDES, I PREFER A LESS *IDLE* MAN...

SPEAKING OF MY FATHER, THE REPORTER, I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT ALFRED PENNYWORTH WAS ALSO A WAR HERO

WELL, AND AWAY FROM BRUCE WAYNE

I'VE TOLD YOU VICKI--I HAVE NO *ROMANTIC INTEREST* IN MR WAYNE

LIKE *BATMAN,* FOR EXAMPLE?

OH...I MEAN THE *BATMAN,* FOR EXAMPLE.

GOOD LUCK--YOU COULD SOONER SNARE A *SHADOW.*

IT WAS AN HOUR LATER. GORDON

OH? AND WHAT HAS THE GREAT SLEUTH DISCOVERED WHICH ESCAPED THE EYES OF THE FLATFOOTED POLICE?

THERE'S NO ICE ACTUALLY *INSIDE* THE BANK--

--BUT THERE *ARE* TRAILS OF WATER LEADING TO AND FROM THE *VAULT*.

AND WATER IS NOTHING BUT *MELTED* ICE -- CHALK UP A BIG ONE FOR YOUR SIDE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, BATMAN?

FIND MY FRIEND.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- BUT THE STRINGER WAS *LITERALLY* TELLING THE TRUTH...

THE BANK'S COMPLETELY *GONE*

AND NOR IS THE *BATMAN* TO BE SEEN!

IT'LL ONLY TAKE A *MINUTE*, GET [illegible] AND I'LL [illegible]

AND IN *THAT*, VICKI WILL HARDLY BE *ALONE*, SERGEANT...

WELL UH...

[illegible] WE'RE FOR [illegible] WE'RE THE *PRESS*. I JUST WANT A [illegible] SHOTS OF THAT *ICE*.

[illegible] BUT YA GOTTA MAKE IT *QUICK*.

THANK YOU, BULL!-- YOU'RE SUCH A *SWEET* MAN.

WHAT DO *MALE* REPORTERS DO?

I WOULDN'T KNOW DEAR -- I'VE NEVER *TRIED* IT THAT WAY

I'LL HOLD THEM, ROBIN

UP ON THE HILL...?

GOOD LORD--IT'S THAT *PICTURE NEWS* PHOTOGRAPHER--AND SOME *OTHER* WOMAN...!

GET THEM UP THERE--AND WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK TO DO!

JUST HOLD ME TIGHT, JULIA--ANCHOR ME

I'M GOING TO LEAN OUT OVER THE ICE AND TRY TO GET A PICTURE THROUGH--

CRASH

CRASH

VICKI!

JULIA!!

HURRY, BATMAN!

JUST WHAT THE [illegible] ON THE FACE OF WHO'S FROM ATTACKED FIRST FROM

IT.. IT'S LIKE A FANTASY-LAND OF ICE... BUT WHAT ON EARTH--?!

OR *IN* EARTH

I DON'T KNOW, TOOTS--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FELL INTO AN EXCLUSIVE YOUR *FIRST TIME OUT.*

I JUST HOPE YOU CAN *WRITE*...

...BECAUSE I'M SURE GONNA TAKE A MESS OF *PICTURES*

COME ON [illegible] DECIDES TO SAVE ON ELECTRICITY BY DOUSING ALL THESE *FLOODLIGHTS* DOWN HERE.

[illegible] *INFEL*

VICKI! JULIA!

NO ANSWER.

MEANING THEY COULD'VE BEEN *HURT*

HURT--OR ABOUT TO MEET *MR. FREEZE.*

GET SOME *ROPES* FOR LT GORDON ...LONGER THAN *MY BAT LINE.*

HONEST, COMM-SH, IF I CA *KNOW* THEY WAS GONNA--

SHUT UP, BULLOCK, AND GET SOME *ROPE.*

BING BONG

NOW, WHO COULD *THAT* BE AT THIS *LATE HOUR?*

YES? MAY I--

MY NAME IS *AMANDA GROSCZ*-- AND I'M FROM THE *GOTHAM CHILD WELFARE BUREAU.*

I'VE COME TO CHECK ON THE CHILD *JASON TODD* RESIDING HERE

AH...AT *THIS* TIME OF THE--

PRECISELY THE TIME A CHILD NEEDS TO BE *SECURE*-- AND SINCE I'M INVESTIGATING HIS *WELFARE*, A *PERFECT* TIME FOR ME TO *SEE* HIM..

HE...AH... JASON HAS GONE TO *BED*--HE'S *ASLEEP*

WONDERFUL--THEN I'LL JUST PEEK IN ON HIS *ACCOMMODATIONS.*

AND MAY I REMIND YOU THAT I AM *AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY*, AND *MANDATED WITH THIS RIGHT*, MR. PENNYWORTH? NOW, WHERE IS THE CHILD'S *ROOM?*

I...I'M AFRAID JASON IS *OUT*...WITH *MASTER WAYNE* AT THE MOMENT...

YOU MEAN HE'S *NOT HERE?* DO YOU REALIZE IT IS GOING ON *ELEVEN P.M.?*

OF *COURSE* YOU DO--YOU JUST *COMPLAINED* OF THE DREADFULLY LATE HOUR *YOURSELF.*

VERY WELL, MR. PENNYWORTH, I THINK I'VE *LEARNED* EVERY-THING *WORTH* LEARNING

BEYOND THE FACT THAT YOU *LIED* TO ME--AND BEYOND THE FACT THAT JASON TODD RESIDES HERE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF *LEGAL ADOPTION PAPERS*--THIS WILL LOOK *BAD* IN MY *REPORT.*

YES, INDEED-- *VERY* BAD.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAG

HEY, [illegible]-- I WILL END THIS ICE CANNON IS SLOWING US DOWN! TOO MUCH.

I SAY WE LEAVE THE LOUSY THING BEHIND AND JUST SPLIT WITH THE LOOT BEFORE THE COPS--

AND I SAY YOU SHUT UP, LOUI, BEFORE I--

EH?

QUIET- ALL OF YOU.

I HEARD SOMETHING BACK THERE--BEHIND US...

BUT MORE WEALTH FLUCE FOLLOW? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO 'EM? CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THE [illegible]

FREEZE!

...AND SO.

OH GET ON, SULU. BUT I JUST HOPE WE FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST BEFORE WE

MORE ICE DOWN BELOW, ROBIN--I WAS RIGHT ABOUT MR. FREEZE.

YEAH--AND I WISH I WERE WEARING LONG PANTS.

HE'S GONE!

AND THE ICE IS TOO HARD FOR FOOTPRINTS--BUT LOOK AT THIS...

SLEDGE TRACKS... OR WHEEL RUTS--AND MADE BY SOMETHING HEAVY.

WHAT CAN THIS LEAD TO NOW?

I SAY WE SPLIT NOW, BEFORE ANYONE ELSE--

AND I SAY WE TURN THE ICE CANNON AND MAKE OUR STAND RIGHT HERE--

--FREEZE EVERY COP OR REPORTER WHO COMES AFTER US AND MAKE OUR ESCAPE AT LEISURE--WITH THE CANNON AND THE LOOT!

AND SINCE I'M THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP, WHAT I SAY GOES!

I'M TAKING MY CUT OF THE DOUGH AND--

LOU!!!

HE FROZE LOU A LITTLE FRANCAIS!

YOU MAY BE THE LEADER OF THE GROUP, FREEZE, BUT I JUST QUIT THE GROUP!

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, THUGS! YOU'RE GOING TO PRISON FOR YOUR OWN *SAFETY*--BEFORE YOU *KILL* EACH OTHER!

WHAT THE--? WHO--?!

THAT WAS THE *BATMAN'S VOICE!*

OVER *THERE*-- BEHIND THAT *ICICLE*--I SAW SOMETHIN' *MOVE!*

NO! OVER THERE! I WAS FROM

WHAT!

YOU'RE ALL WRONG!

WE'RE *EVERYWHERE*-- AND YOU CAN'T *ESCAPE* US!

...the fray swoop Robin and Bat of a... so quickly they strike, and with such ... their involvement this soon not part of ... ...but there remains the dire threat of ...

IT'S NOT OVER YET, BATMAN--

--NOT WHILE MY ICE GUN CAN TURN YOU INTO A COLD STATUE!

ONLY IF YOU HIT ME, FREEZE!

As for Sammy, all he wanted
was a chance to draw
But now his misguided dreams
he wishes would thaw
Yet he reaches for one last
chance, doomed aborning
As he lunges too fast
to heed the warning...

NO, SAMMY-- DON'T TOUCH THE CANNON!

IT'S STILL HYPER-COLD! YOUR HAND WILL--

K-K-K-K-K

And so, victim to a double-whammy,
Falls the artistic thief, ever called Sammy.

THROOM

Now the truth no one will ever know
How, at the last moment, deep in Sammy's heart
Lou's words proved more convincing than dough
And that from his boss, artist planned to part...

The cannon's trigger he would have squeezed
Only after turning it on the mister named Freeze.

FLIGHT IS USELESS, FREEZE!

TELL ME WHERE THE WOMEN ARE-- AND MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF!

THEY'RE RIGHT HERE, BATMAN, AND THEIR POSITION MAKES IT EASIER ON ME THAN YOU REALIZE!

THUS FAR, I'VE ONLY COATED THEM WITH A SLIGHT FROST...

...BUT MAKE ONE THREATENING MOVE--

--AND I'LL FREEZE THEM SOLID ...FOREVER!

The idea of hope is Julia's And a more desperate one there never was...

Against the grip of cold she must fight...

Simply to nod head toward stalactite.

Vicki quickly gleans the game;

With their feet both women strain...

AND SO THE ADVANTAGE FINALLY BECOMES MINE, BATMAN--

--AFTER SO MANY DEFEATS AT YOUR HAND...

K-K-K-K-K

KRUMPP!

BETTER CHALK UP ANOTHER ONE, FREEZE--

CHUDT

"--BECAUSE BY NOW, ROBIN HAS NO DOUBT FINISHED THE LAST OF YOUR THUGS IN THE OTHER CAVERN."

SWAK!

NICE TEAMWORK, LADIES.

G-GET...UG... D-DOWN.

INDEED-- YOU'VE BEEN ON ICE *LONG* ENOUGH.

VICKI'S THAWING OUT QUITE *NICELY*, BATMAN.

HOW'S *JULIA* DOING?

GETTING WARMER BY THE MIN--

--MMMMPH!

BOLD MOVES *INDEED*, TOOTS!

AND I HEARTILY APPROVE OF YOUR BRAND OF *ACTION*-- AS LONG AS THE RECIPIENT IS NOT *BRUCE WAYNE*.

KLITCH

And so ends my sad tale of Gotham-town
here in prison, right hand a frozen fixture
Left with naught but the rhymes of a clown
Never again to draw another picture.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

EPILOGUE:

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF ICE TO LAST ME *THREE LIFETIMES.*

BUT *WOMEN* ENOUGH FOR ONLY *TWO* LIFETIMES, EH?

LET'S SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS *STRAIGHT...*

ONE WANTS *BRUCE WAYNE* AND THE *OTHER* WANTS THE *BATMAN*--BUT THE ONE *YOU* WANT AS *BRUCE WAYNE* IS THE ONE WHO WANTS *YOU* AS *BATMAN*--AND *VICE-VERSA.*

RIGHT?

THAT'LL *DO,* JASON.

OKAY--BUT IS IT JUST MY *IMAGINATION*... OR IS THE BATCAVE *CHILLIER THAN USUAL?*

IT HARDLY MATTERS, SINCE IMAGINATION IS MORE POWERFUL THAN REALITY, AND *MINE* IS SHIVERING JUST AS HARD AS *YOURS.*

HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT INCREASING THE *HEAT* DOWN HERE.

THANK GOD YOU'RE B-BACK, SIRS!

I... I DID MY B-*BEST*... TO *COVER* FOR YOU... B-BUT I'M AFRAID IT JUST WASN'T *ENOUGH!*

HUH? ARE *YOU* COLD *TOO,* ALFRED? WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

THEY'LL BE *C-COMING*... TO T-TAKE ... *MASTER JASON*... *AWAY.*

IN THE NEXT *DETECTIVE* (ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS): *LOSING JASON*--AND A BRAND-NEW VILLAIN IN THE NEXT *BATMAN*: *NIGHTSHADE!*